IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend paragraph 15 beginning on page 5 as follows:

"FIG. 3 is a side view of microscope 2 in which one housing part is removed in order to provide a view into the interior of stand 4. Stand 4 is constructed substantially from a first and a second housing shell 16 and 18 (only the second housing shell is depicted). Stand 4 is C-shaped and rests on a stand base cover 22 that is joined to a base part 20 of stand 4. Base part 20, which is likewise constituted by first and second housing shell 16 and 18. Base part 20 is closed off by stand base cover 22. Before stand base cover 22 is mounted, first and second housing shell 16 and 18 are joined to one another using at least two joining means 34 in each case. The respective joining means 34 are arranged in the interior of first and second housing shell 16 and 18 and are immovably joined to one another by a screw 54. Screw 54 is not visible from outside stand 4, so that the external shape of stand 4 is not disturbed by any threaded connections. An optical deflection means 36 is also arranged in the interior of, for example, second housing shell 18. Optical deflection means 36 is required because optical axis 9 of eyepiece 7 inserted into eyepiece tube 6, and optical axis 13 of objective 8 which is in the working position, are arranged at an angle α. Angle α is embodied as an obtuse angle in order to achieve an ergonomic viewing position for the user. Optical deflection means 36 is embodied in such a way that the user sees an image of the sample which has the same orientation as the sample itself. Objective 8 can be embodied as a single objective. Objective 8 can likewise be mounted on a turret (not depicted), offering the user the capability of switching rapidly between different magnifications. Microscope stage 10 is provided opposite base part 20. A battery 44, which serves to supply power to illumination module 39, is housed in base part 20 of stand 4. As an inexpensive embodiment, a controller (not depicted) for the light intensity of illumination module 39 can be provided. The controller can ~~be~~ easily be embodied by way of a potentiometer. Illumination module 39 of microscope 2 encompasses at least one white LED 39a. Battery 44 can likewise be embodied in the form of a rechargeable battery. In another embodiment of microscope 2, a connection socket 46 for an external power supply can also be provided. A cable 46a connects connection socket 46 to an on/off switch 50. The Z-drive knob 10 is mechanically connected to an eccentric cam 48, wherein the stage can be displaced vertically relative to objective 8 using Z-drive knob 12 (FIG. 1)."